

Town of Somerset - Somerset Government Efficiency Committee

Minutes of the June 6, 2009 meeting
Meeting # 11
Held at the Town Hall

(Page 1 of 2)

Meeting attended by: Supervisor: Richard Meyers (via speaker phone).
Councilman: Randy Wayner and Councilman: Daniel Engert at Town Hall

Town resident attendees: None

Meeting called to order at 8:10 am by Supervisor Meyers.

Agenda Topic:

Establish a percentage of total health benefit expense to be paid by the Town's ten part time elected officials only: (Supervisor, four Councilpersons, Tax Collector, three person Board of Assessors and the Town Justice).

Discussion:

Supervisor Meyers has received information from six Towns in Niagara County regarding their policy on healthcare coverage for part time elected officials. (Lewiston, Hartland, Lockport, Porter, Cambria, and Pendleton).

Porter, Lewiston, Hartland, and Pendleton offer zero coverage for part time elected officials. Cambria employs a co-pay % format while The Town of Lockport does provide coverage with no co-pay, except for retirees where a length of service sliding scale co-pay policy is in place.

After much discussion it was decided that a 10% of the total health benefit expense incurred to cover part time elected officials was a fair co-pay percentage. Using this percentage the savings to the Town would be \$1,102.47 per part time elected official. That figure multiplied by the ten positions that qualify as part time elected would yield an annual savings of \$11,024.70.

**** (important note: subsequent to this meeting the Town Board voted to move from the three person Board of Assessors platform to a sole appointed assessor. Therefore the effected positions would be reduced to seven. Accordingly, the annual savings to the Town would be \$7,717.29).**

It was further decided not to pursue a separate buy out clause for part time elected officials who may be covered by other policies.

Next Steps:

The SGEC will produce and distribute to the entire Town Board, a written recommendation for their consideration at the July 14th meeting.

Assignments:

Councilman Engert and Councilman Wayner will contact present and former part time elected officials who currently receive lifetime coverage. They will report back to the SGEC.

Councilman Wayner will produce our written recommendation and will distribute it to all members of the Town Board.

Next meeting: To be determined.

Note: (the SGEC adopted a summer schedule. There will be no meeting in July. We will meet once in August and once in September. We will return to our normal bi-weekly meeting schedule in October).

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 am

Respectfully submitted,
Councilman: Randall Wayner
SGEC Secretary